(c) and (d) With the progressive increase in the production of aluminium metal by National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), surplus availability of aluminium is anticipated next year. However, import of aluminium including aluminium rods have been placed on Open General Licence (OGL) with marginal level of customs duty of Rs. 500/- per tonne from July, 1988.

Back-ground papers on rural development

2707. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any background papers have been prepared on rural development;

(b) whether any scheme on the lines of the scheme existing in Maharashtra has also been prepared; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) Background papers on various issues relating to rural development are prepared from time to time by the Department of Rural Development for their internal use as well as for discussions in meetings, seminars, workshops etc. No final scheme on National Employment Guarantee on the pattern of existing employment Guarantee Scheme of Maharashtra has however, been formulated by the Government.

Central Scheme on environmental improvement of urban slums

2708. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Scheme on environmental improvement of urban slums during the Seventh Plan period is going on according to the target fixed;

(b) if so, what is the number of total slum dwellers who have been provided amenities under the Central Scheme; and

(c) what are the names of the States where slum dwellers have been provided these amenities and the target fixed and whether by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan period, the slum dwellers all over the country are proposed to be provided with such environmental improvements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) As against 7th Plan target of coverage of about 9 million slum dwellers under the State sector Scheme of Environment Improvement of Urban Slums, about 5.74 million slum dwellers have been covered in the first three years of the plan which is considered satisfactory progress. A statement showing State-wise physical targets and achievements under the Scheme during the first three years of the Plan is enclosed. (See Appendix CXL-VIII, Annexure No. 119).

The 7th Plan target of coverage slum dwellers is likely to be achieved. The balance slum dwellers, not covered till the end of 7th Plan, would have to be taken care of in the subsequent plans.

Indo Jordan co-operation agreement on manpower

2709. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Jordan propose to formalise an agreement defining co-operation in manpower related affairs;

(b) if so, whether the Labour Minister of India visited Jordan during September; and